

WORKS IN THE PROVINCES.

At Canterbury a company is being formed having for its object the establishment of a general cemetery without the walls of, but contiguous to the city. The capital required is 16,000*l*.—The present extravagant price of gas in Wolverhampton has suggested the project of a new company, with a capital of 30,000*l*. When the situation of the town is considered, its proximity to the coal-fields, and its cheap water communication therefrom, it cannot but be matter of surprise that gas should have retained a higher price, ranging from twenty-five to thirty per cent., than what is charged in many towns of inferior local advantage.—A new corn hall has lately been opened at Bungay. The *Ipswich Express* says, it is scarcely possible to speak too highly of the liberality with which the proprietors have endeavoured not only to accommodate the persons attending the market, but also to beautify the town, by the erection of this building. Mr. Thomas Farrow was the architect, and Mr. Foulger the contractor.—The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have voted 3,000*l*. towards the restoration of the Bishop of Exeter's Palace.—Considerable progress has recently been made towards completing that magnificent and colossal undertaking the Queen's Drive, Edinburgh. The portion which runs through what was formerly a marshy meadow, and a great nuisance, is finished, and joined at the one end to the portion commencing opposite the foot of Arthur-street, and at the other end to the outlet at Parson's-green, so that the low lying portion of the carriage-way and footpath is now finished and open to pedestrians. With regard to the more elevated section of the drive, commencing at Mushat's Cairn, and terminating at St. Leonard's, the operations are in a forward state. Workmen have lately been employed in throwing down the old city wall on the west side of Bristo-street, Edinburgh, for the purpose of widening the thoroughfare in that part of the city. This old wall, which is now fast disappearing, is a venerable relic of past times, having been erected immediately after the battle of Flodden Field, and has, therefore, stood upwards of 360 years. There is still a considerable portion of it standing in the north of Drummond-street.—Extensive improvements are now in progress at Dunrobin Castle. The *John o' Groat Journal* says, when they are finished "the old castle will have to boast of some rooms as noble as any of which our southern nobility are proud. Its antique character will also be preserved; and the magnificent suite of apartments (marked in the architect's plan as "The Queen's Rooms") will harmonize, at least externally, with the ancient feudal towers of Dunrobin, that have braved fully five centuries."—A new bridge of a neat and substantial character is being erected at Widford, near Chelmsford.—The new Catholic church in Coventry, the nave of which was opened for public worship about twelve months since, is now finished. The ceremony of consecration took place last week.—An attempt is being made at Yarmouth to raise by subscription 5,000*l*. for the purposes of restoring the parish church of St. Nicholas, and of establishing a national school in connection therewith. With respect to the restoration, the committee say, "As a parish church, it is one of the largest in the kingdom, and has many parts of great architectural interest. Its present aspect is extremely melancholy, but as there is now a strong desire throughout the kingdom to render churches worthy of the high and holy purposes to which they are devoted, it is hoped that the voice of the prophet of old, which says, "Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?" will now be heard, and that a building which in former ages appeared "exceedingly splendid and solemn, may once more assume its pristine grandeur."—Lord Mostyn has given the munificent donation of 200*l*. towards rebuilding the ancient church at Flint, which has now fallen into great decay. The Hon. E. M. Lloyd Mostyn has also given 100*l*. in furtherance of that desirable object. It is proposed that the new church shall afford accommodation for 800 persons.—A temporary building in the New London-road, Chelmsford, designed for the Roman Catholic service, is nearly completed, and will shortly be opened. It is built within an enclosure,

purchased for the erection of a more extensive building, on the completion of which, the present structure is to be applied to schools.

—Mr. Mason, of Exeter, is the successful contractor for the erection of the Wesleyan College, near Taunton. The contract is under six thousand pounds. It is Mr. M.'s intention to proceed with the excavation for foundations forthwith, and the buildings are to be completed by Lady-day, 1847.—The Rev. Mr. Smith is building new schools at Taunton, entirely at his own expense. There will be two rooms of 50 by 20 feet each, with sliding doors, the whole room when the doors are slid back being 102 feet 6 inches. At the southern extremity is the master's cottage, behind which are to be ample courts. The style chosen is that of the collegiate and domestic edifices, of the latter part of the fifteenth century, having large transomed and mullioned windows, and steep gable ends to the roof. The school-rooms will accommodate 420 children, and are designed for Sunday and day schools.—The old poor-house, Walcot, Somersetshire, has been purchased for the purpose of being converted into baths and laundries for the poor.—The price was 800*l*.—The new theatre at Manchester is nearly completed. The stone facade in Peter-street will be finished by the opening day, the 29th instant. The marble statue of Shakspeare, which is to occupy the niche in front of the building, has not yet arrived from Italy.—For a long time nothing has remained of Panworth Church but the tower, standing in an arable field, a reproach to the parish and the neighbourhood.—Lately, however, efforts have been made for the restoration of the edifice; and as a comparatively small sum, 500*l*. is required, several gentlemen have resolved to raise the necessary funds. Mr. Watson, of Norwich, whose plan will probably be adopted, has offered the east window, equal in value to 25*l*. subscription. The design is in the style of the fourteenth century, with a nave and chancel.—The Earl of Ripon is rebuilding his family mansion, at Nocton, destroyed some few years back by fire.—Extensive alterations and improvements are in progress at Hatfield House. At least 300 workmen and artists are at present employed there.—The Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Act have expressed themselves in favour of the plan proposed by the Birmingham, Dudley, and Wolverhampton Railway Company, of erecting a spacious station in the centre of the town.—The Dock and Harbour Commissioners at Leith have closed the lower drawbridge for the purpose of levelling the bridge and otherwise improving this extensive and increasing thoroughfare. The work will be one of great expense, and will, it is expected, occupy three months in the execution.—The Hull Dock Company are prosecuting their various, extensive, and highly important works with vigour and dispatch rarely witnessed. The railway dock, the great east dock, the warehouses, the iron yards, &c., are now in course of rapid construction, and when completed cannot fail to raise Hull far above her present position.

EFFLUVIA FROM SEWERS.

SIR,—I was very pleased to observe the letter of "J. L." on the important subject of "effluvia from sewers" in your last number, and I believe that whenever this matter is taken up in good earnest, a remedy will not be long wanting to lessen, or altogether get rid of, the mischievous effects of the pestiferous gases continually rising from our subterranean drains or sewers. You are of course aware that the subject has engrossed the attention of persons connected with these matters for many years past; and with respect to the plans proposed by "J. L.," I believe the first of them can lay no claim to originality; in fact, the idea of "trapping," in connection with our street sewers, has been proposed and laid aside as futile and visionary long since. The remedy for this serious grievance appears at first sight so simple, and at the same time so effective, that no doubt it will strike some persons as strange that it has not been applied to some extent before this time. I am not prepared at this moment to assert that it has, but I am inclined to believe so. The bar, however, to its introduction, you are no doubt aware, has been the danger and serious injury that would result

by the explosions and bursting of the sewers—the natural consequence of shutting the safety valves—for in such relation may the gully-holes be considered to stand with reference to the main sewers. Your correspondent's plan, however, of meeting this difficulty is not so common, and in some measure provides a remedy for the danger to be apprehended from explosion, although here again many difficulties would present themselves in obtaining sufficient, safe, and convenient sites for the "columns," or vitiated air-flues; as they should recur very frequently, not only to insure the stability of the sewer, but also the lives of persons whose duty it is occasionally to pass through them for the purpose of examination or repair. The experiment, however, in the manner proposed—that is the combination of a system of "traps" and "columns," may, I believe, be tested without any enormous outlay; and with regard to the mode of destroying the gases on their emerging from the columns, chemistry would lend us innumerable aids, and, I believe, might be made an index whereby to shew the amount of vitiated air consumed under the various changes of the seasons and atmosphere, and other circumstances, and which we are now compelled to inhale in our daily search after London fresh air. I am also of opinion that the system could be made more complete by the introduction of draft-creating machinery on the principle of the wind guards and ventilators. This would, I believe, prevent much of the annoyance felt at times, within doors, from the back or down-drafts in the sewers in windy weather.

Before concluding these few remarks on a subject, perhaps one of the most useful that can occupy the varied pages of your paper, let me ask your correspondent whether he has conceived, and is prepared with, the detail as regards the "traps" which he proposes to use; as on this point much of the successful working of the system would depend. These traps must of course always contain a sufficiency of water, and they must be continually replenished and cleansed, or they would in time become themselves the receptacles (in a more prominent position) for stagnant matter, and thus increase the evils which they were designed to remove. Nothing, it appears to me, would so effectually conduce to the constant efficiency of the "traps" as a small branch from the "water main," turned at will, so as to keep up a greater or less flow of water down the gulleys.

Begging "J. L." and other of your readers who take an interest in the subject to give us the benefit of their opinion thereon.

I am, Sir, &c.,

Zemogus.

P.S. It just occurs to me, that reformation, like charity, should begin at home; and therefore it behoves us before crying too loudly against "public" sewers, to put a proper "trap" (not on our mouths only) but on our own private drains and cesspools; for I feel persuaded that much of the annoyance before adverted to proceeds (from inattention to this latter point), from the vaults and areas of our houses, and not entirely from the gulleys of our public sewers.

DRAIN TRAPS.—Contrivances to prevent the escape of foul air from drains often fail to produce the intended effect, and great expense is often incurred in attempting to apply a remedy in the wrong place. The drains smell, we shall have rain, is a common expression, but perhaps few inquire why drains send forth their peculiar intimation of a change in the state of the atmosphere. It has become the practice to trap drains where they leave the house to prevent the ingress of rain from the sewer, so that a large quantity of air is locked in the drain between these large traps and the smaller ones, at the sinks in the house. Now, this air being liable to expansion from various causes (among which are the diminution in the pressure of the atmosphere indicated by the falling of the mercury in the barometer, and the introduction of hot water), occasionally displaces the very small column of water in the sink-traps, and escapes into the house, to the serious annoyance of its inmates. The remedy is, to insert one end of a pipe into the highest part of the drain, so that the foul air may escape at the other extremity of the pipe where it can produce no inconvenience.—See *plement to the Penny Cyclopædia*.